IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace pending claims 1, 8, 15, 18 and 19 with amended claims 1, 8, 15, 18 and 19 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An automated event presentation system for capturing and viewing an event having event participants, comprising:

an omni-directional camera system that provides an omni-directional image of the event and that simultaneously monitors the event participants and films the event;

an automated online broadcasting system that controls and uses the omni-directional camera system to keep track of each of the monitored event participants simultaneously, and broadcasts the event; and

a viewer platform in communication with the automated online broadcasting system that allows a viewer to view the broadcasted event.

8. (Once Amended) A method for filming and recording an event having event participants and presenting the event to a viewer, comprising:

filming and recording the event using an omni-directional camera system to provide an omni-directional image that contains each of the event participants;

determining a location of the event participants in the omni-directional image;

providing a user interface that allows a choice of which of the event participants in the omni-directional image to view, the choice being made by at least one of: (a) the viewer; (b) a virtual director; and

switching instantaneously between views of the event participants in the omni-directional image in response to the choice.

15. (Once Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein multiple camera views are obtained from the omni-directional image and further comprising using the speaker detection technique to follow event participants that are speaking by switching from one camera view to another camera view.

18. (Once Amended) A method for displaying at least a portion of an omni-directional image capturing an event occurring within an event environment, comprising:

filming the event using an omni-directional camera system having a single camera to produce the omni-directional image;

transmitting the omni-directional image from a broadcasting platform to a viewer platform using a computer network;

using the viewer platform to allow a viewer to select which portion of the omni-directional image the viewer would like to view; and

switching instantaneously between views of the omni-directional image by presenting a desired portion of the omni-directional image as selected by the viewer.

19. (Once Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the viewer selects to view multiple portions of the omni-directional image.

Please add new claims 25-28 as follows:

25. (New) The automated event presentation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the omni-directional camera system requires no visible physical movement to capture the event participants.

26. (New) The automated event presentation system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a user interface on the viewer platform that allows an arbitrary number of viewers to view an arbitrary number of viewpoints of the broadcasted event.

27. (New) The automated event presentation system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the omni-directional image provides an infinite number of viewpoints, with each of the viewpoints corresponding to a portion of the omni-directional image, such that instantaneous switching is supported for an infinite number of viewers that select arbitrarily different viewpoints.

28. (New) The automated event presentation system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting a low-resolution version of the omni-directional image to the viewer platform;

selecting which portion of the omni-directional image to view, the selection being made by at least one of: (a) manually by the viewer; (b) automatically by a virtual director module; and

transmitting a high-resolution version of the selected portion of the omni-directional image to the viewer platform.